

total of more than 97,000 patient days. The average length of stay at Ochsner is 4.9 days. In addition, each year 30,000 individuals are treated on an emergency outpatient basis.

Known for surgical expertise with nearly 12,000 surgery cases handled each year, the hospital is also known for its pediatric, cancer, cardiology, and orthopedic programs. The Ochsner Multi-Organ Transplantation Center performs transplantation surgeries for most major solid organ systems and ranks as the fifth largest heart transplantation program in the country.

Ochsner has provided generations of patients from the New Orleans area and from throughout the world with quality medical care. This new addition will permit them to continue providing the highest quality of medical care for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
BERTRAM G. BENNETT, JR.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual who has devoted his life to serving others, Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr. He will be honored by the Wardens, Vestry and People of Saint David's Episcopal Church on Sunday, September 17, 2000 for 20 years of ministry at Saint David's.

Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr., was born in New York City on September 23, 1951 and has been Priest-in-Charge of St. David's Episcopal Church in the Bronx since 1980. He received a B.A. in Behavioral Science from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Master of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained Deacon in 1977 and Priest in 1978.

Fr. Bennett strongly upholds the Diocese of New York's mission statement of "effective church presence in poor communities." Born and raised in Harlem and carrying out his ministry in the South Bronx, Fr. Bennett is very much aware of the problems that afflict such communities.

Serving on a number of committees and boards, Fr. Bennett is well-known and respected in the Diocese, the parish and the community. He has served on the Diocesan Council and on several Diocesan committees. He is currently the Chair of the South Bronx Interparish Council, and in that capacity stresses the importance of the parishes meeting on a regular basis and sharing information and resources. Fr. Bennett is also on the Board of Episcopal Social Services, an organization that assists people of all ages throughout the Diocese.

Under Fr. Bennett's encouragement, St. David's has been a member of South Bronx Churches (SBC) since its beginning in 1987. SBC is an ecumenical broad-based organization of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), involved with problems the communities in the South Bronx face regarding housing, illegal drugs, education, health, and employment. As

Chair of the Housing Task Force of the South Bronx Churches, Fr. Bennett has been instrumental in the development of affordable homes in the South Bronx. He is also Chair of the Board of the Senior Housing Development. The accomplishments result from the hard work and motivation of Fr. Bennett whose steadfast perseverance is an inspiration to his parishioners.

Important to Fr. Bennett's ministry is his involvement with youth work in the church and community. He has served as Chair of the Board of Bronx Youth Ministry and has recently been appointed to serve on the School Chancellor's Interfaith Advisory Council. St. David's After School Program and Summer Day Camp are vital community programs that offer supervised and structured activities for the youngsters. In recent years, Fr. Bennett has encouraged the men of the Parish to meet on a regular basis with the young men of the community for prayer and fellowship during the week.

Before coming to St. David's, Fr. Bennett served in churches in the Bronx and Manhattan. As a parish priest, he places a high priority on making pastoral calls, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and counseling. Many times he has been able to assist members of the church and community through court appearances and intervention with the Department of Social Services, and giving support to parents dealing with school authorities.

Among the church and community organizations that have honored Fr. Bennett for his ministry are the Boys of Yesteryear, the Bronx Council, Bronx Youth Ministry, and the New York City Council of Churches.

Fr. Bennett is a devoted family man, as is evident to those who have met his wife, Ledda, their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Bertram G. Bennett, Jr., for his remarkable career of serving the community and bringing hope to the many individuals he has touched.

A SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the important contributions made by ADT Security Services, Inc., a security headquarters in my district in Boca Raton, Florida, to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

The NCPC is a private non-profit organization which has been working tirelessly to make our country safer from crime. The most prominent of their programs is the "McGruff the Crime Dog" public service advertising campaign, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Many of us are familiar with its "Take a Bite out of Crime" slogan. Some of their other valuable activities include providing technical assistance to communities, coordinating community demonstration projects, and producing award-winning publications for distribution to law enforcement, schools, and community organizations.

ADT has sponsored activities of the NCPC since 1985, and ADT's support has allowed the NCPC to develop and distribute the National Crime Prevention Survey and the annual October Crime Prevention Month kit. To celebrate McGruff's 20th anniversary, the NCPC also began a tour of the country to recognize those communities which have had significant reductions in crime as a result of coordinated prevention efforts. This tour is only possible as a result of ADT's support.

Mr. Speaker, when corporations such as ADT give of their resources to improve communities, the results pay enormous dividends in the quality of life all Americans enjoy.

I would like to express my best wishes for continued success to the partnership of ADT and the NCPC, as well as my pride to represent a company, such as ADT, in the House of Representatives.

VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR: THE REFUGEES OF COLOMBIA AND PERU

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I chaired a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing on "Victims of Civil War: The Refugees of Colombia and Peru." I would hereby like to share the agenda and my opening statement at the hearing with the House for my colleagues' information.

CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS—VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR: THE REFUGEES OF COLOMBIA AND PERU, SEPTEMBER 20, 2000, 10-11:30 AM

Summary: Pursuant to the request of Congressional Diaz-Balart (R-FL), the Congressional Human Rights Caucus convened on September 20, 2000 at 10 AM to examine the causes and ramifications of the Andean refugee crisis and to review U.S. policy in response to this crisis. Caucus Chairmen John Edward Porter (R-IL) and Tom Lantos (D-CA) appointed Congressman Diaz-Balart (R-FL) to chair the briefing. The briefing concluded at 11:45 AM.

WITNESSES

Panel I: (1) Ms. Dawn T. Calabria, External Relations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; (2) Mr. Julian Hoyos, political asylee from Colombia; and (3) Mr. Jorge Vallejos, refugee/journalist from Peru.

Panel II: (1) Ms. Nina Serafino, Congressional Research Service (CRS) specialist on Colombia; (2) Ms. Maureen Taft Morales, (CRS) specialist on Peru; (3) Andrew Miller, Acting Advocacy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Amnesty International USA; and (4) Elisa Massimino, Washington, DC Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS, BRIEFING ON THE VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR IN COLOMBIA AND PERU, SEPTEMBER 20, 2000

Welcome to today's Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing on the Andean refugees—victims of civil war in Colombia and Peru. I would first like to thank my colleagues, Congressman JOHN PORTER and TOM